

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IO-03 NSC-07 NSCE-00 SP-02

CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 EB-03 AID-10 L-02

DRC-01 /066 W

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R 272200Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5034

INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 8681

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAS

SUBJECT: OAS SECRETARY GENERAL RACE: POSSIBLE PASTRANA
CANDIDACY

REF A) BOGOTA 8059 NOTAL B) STATE 207314

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SEPT 26, I
ASKED HIM HOW GOC NOW SAW THE OAS SEC GEN RACE. LIEVANO
SAID THAT THERE WERE NOW THREE CANDIDATES IN THE
RACE: SAPENA PASTOR, GOMEZ BERGES AND A PERUVIAN.
HE SAID THAT THE PERUVIAN GOVT WAS BEING VERY QTE
GUARDADO UNQOTE ABOUT ITS CANDIDATE, WHOSE NAME HE
DID NOT EVEN REMEMBER. IT WAS ONE OF THE SUB-
SECRETARIES IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND NOT THE
FOREIGN MINISTER HIMSELF. (LIEVANO GAVE ME THIS
INFORMATION IN CONFIDENCE, AND SHOULD BE PROTECTED.
UNLESS THE INFORMATION IS KNOWN FROM OTHER SOURCES,
I WOULD HOPE THAT NEITHER THE DEPT NOR AMEMBASSY LIMA
WOULD REVEAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE INFORMATION OR THE
SOURCE IN ANY DISCUSSIONS WITH PERUVIANS.)

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2. LIEVANO SAID THAT PARAGUAY, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND

PERU HAD EACH ASKED FOR COLOMBIAN SUPPORT. THE GOC
REPLY WAS THAT IT WOULD NOT COMMIT ITSELF TO ANY
CANDIDATE AT THIS TIME, AND WANTED TO SEE WHAT OTHER
CANDIDATES WERE PRESENTED. LIEVANO SAID THAT FRANKLY
COLOMBIA WAS NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT ANY OF THE CANDIDATES,
AND HOPED THAT SOME OTHERS MIGHT BE PRESENTED LATER.

LIEVANO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE GOC HAS CONSIDERED OFFERING
A CANDIDATE FOR THE IDB PRESIDENCY, AND HAD
THOUGHT OF PASTRANA OR CARLOS LLERAS BUT CLAIMED
THAT A POSSIBLE IDB CANDIDACY HAS NOT BEEN DISCUSSED
WITH EITHER. HE SAID THE OAS WAS ENTERING A CRUCIAL
PERIOD, AND IF THE GOC HAD ANY ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS
AS TO A SECGENERAL CANDIDACY HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH
WITH ME.

4. I TOLD LIEVANO THAT OUR POSITION WAS CURRENTLY THE
SAME AS THE GOC'S, NAMELY WE HAD NOT, AND WOULD NOT
FOR THE TIME BEING, COMMIT OURSELVES TO ANY CANDIDATE.
WE TOO WERE INTERESTED IN WHAT ADDITIONAL CANDIDATES
MIGHT BE PUT FORWARD.

5. COMMENT: MY READING IS THAT THE GOC IS STILL IN
THE QUANDRY PRES LOPEZ INDICATED (REFTEL A) AS TO
WHETHER TO GO FOR THE IDB OR THE OAS POSTS. THE
GOC APPARENTLY WAS PREPARED TO GO FOR THE IDB POSITION,
BUT THE FRUSTRATION OVER LACK OF A GOOD CANDIDATE FOR
THE OAS SLOT IS TEMPTING IT. I SUSPECT, HOWEVER, THAT
IT WILL TAKE REAL LACK OF ANY ALTERNATIVE TO CURRENT
CANDIDATES, OR SOME OUTSIDE ENCOURAGEMENT TO PERSUADE
THEM TO PRESENT A CANDIDATE FOR THE OAS SECRETARY
GENERAL POSITION.

6. THE APPROACH BY AMBASSADOR ARANGO (QUITO 6138)
WAS AS NOTED VERY CLEARLY A PERSONAL ONE, AND AS FAR
AS I CAN SEE WOULD NOT BE APPRECIATED BY LIEVANO WHERE
HE AWARE OF IT, WHICH I DO NOT BELIEVE HE IS. AS THE
DEPT KNOWS THERE ARE SOME RUFFLED FEELINGS BETWEEN
PASTRANA AND LOPEZ OVER THE DEPICITON OF THE CURRENT
ECONOMIC EMERGENCY IN COLOMBIA AND WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE
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BOGOTA 8431 AND I SUSPECT THAT THIS WILL HAVE
SOME EFFECT ON THE GOC'S WILLINGNESS TO PRESENT PASTRANA
AS A CANDIDATE FOR ANYTHING (OR IT MAY STIMULATE IT AS
A MEANS OF REMOVING HIM FROM THE POLITICAL SCENE).
DEPENDING UPON THE MOTIVES OF ARANGO AND HIS FRIENDS,
THEY MAY FIND IT IN THEIR INTEREST TO ALLEGE TO THE
GOC A SYMPATHETIC USG VIEW OF A PASTRANA CANDIDACY
AS A WAY OF QTE SELLING UNQTE IT. THIS WOULD NOT HELP

US WITH LOPEZ AND HENCE IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE CONTINUE
TO MAKE CLEAR TO ARANGO OUR NEUTRALITY.
VAKY

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